

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully solicited in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

Claims 1-14 and 37-43 are pending in this application. By the present Amendment, Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 13, 37, 41 and 42 are amended. The title is amended as requested in the Office Action; and the specification is amended to correct typographical errors.

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 9-10, 13, 37-39 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,449,426 (“Suga”). The remaining claims were rejected under §103 over Suga or Suga in view of the Kawamura patent (U.S. Patent No. 6,118,929). Applicant submits that all claims in this application, at least in the form presented herein, are patentable over the cited references for at least the following reasons:

Considering amended Claim 1, Applicant submits that Suga does not disclose or suggest a recording/reproducing apparatus that comprises image pickup means for generating a picked-up-image signal; first writing means for writing the picked-up-image signal *on a first removable recording medium*; reading means for reading an image signal from said first recording medium; second writing means for *writing the image signal read by said reading means on a second removable recording medium*; and control means for *controlling recording/reproducing between said first and second recording mediums*.

The Office Action asserted that in Suga’s FIG. 8, the memory 406 meets the first writing means; the memory 406 meets the reading means; the recording medium 421 meets the second writing means; and the system controller 500 meets the claimed control means. The memory 406, however, is not a removable recording medium, as presently recited in Applicant’s claims. Rather, it is merely employed as a buffer-type memory for “temporarily storing the output from

the A/D converter 403 (see col. 3, lines 27-29). In essence, Suga's buffer memory 406 is serving a different purpose than Applicant's claimed removable first recording medium (e.g., a tape or the like which is designated for a permanent or semi-permanent recording, inherent in the "removable" aspect of the recording medium).

It is noted here that Suga's FIG. 10 discloses first and second removable drives 407 and 411; however, as understood by Applicant's representative, Suga does not provide any means for writing an image signal read from the first recording medium (e.g. 421a) on the second recording medium (421b). Instead, a selection is made to record onto either one of the recording mediums exclusively (see col. 9, lines 35 et seq.).

Accordingly, Suga neither anticipates nor renders Applicant's Claim 1 obvious under §§102 or 103.

Independent Claims 13, 37 and 42 are patentable over Suga for analogous reasons.

The remaining claims in this application are patentable over the cited references based at least upon their respective dependencies from one of the above-noted independent claims.

In addition, Claim 3, for example, recites identification-information recording means for recording identification information together with the picked-up-image signal on said first recording medium when the picked-up-image signal is recorded on said first recording medium as a still image; identification-information detecting means; etc. To this end, the Examiner asserted that the capability of recording identification signals along with the image signals in a camcorder for identifying whether the image is still mode or sequential mode (motion mode) was well known in the art and therefore Official Notice was taken. However, the present application was filed in March 1999 and claims priority from a Japanese application filed in March 1998. As far as Applicant's representative is aware, these capabilities were not known in the art at that

time. Accordingly, the Official Notice is respectively traversed and the Examiner is requested to provide a reference disclosing same as required in the M.P.E.P.

Moreover, Claim 7 discloses that the first recording medium is a tape-shaped recording medium. To this end, the Examiner relied upon Official Notice, i.e., implying that it would have been obvious to replace Suga's memory 406 with a tape. This reasoning, however, is unsound in that Suga's memory 406 is a built-in (internal) buffer memory: one skilled in the art would clearly not be inclined to replace an internal buffer memory with a removable tape. Indeed, a tape would not be suitable for the purpose of Suga's buffer memory 406, since the buffer is used for fast temporary storage operations in conjunction with a CPU that could not be performed with a tape.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, and the allowance of this application with Claims 1-14 and 37-43, are respectfully solicited.

The above statements concerning the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinion of Applicant's representative and, in the event that the Examiner disagrees, Applicant's representative respectfully requests the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the references providing the basis for a contrary view.

It is submitted that the claims in this application, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made for clarification and to round out the scope of protection for the invention.

In the event that additional cooperation in this case may be helpful to complete its prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number written below.

Respectfully submitted,

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